



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Zhao, et al.

Serial No.: 09/665,422

Filed: September 20, 2000

For: **Damascene Interconnect Structure
And Fabrication Method Having
Air Gaps Between Metal Lines
And Metal Layers**

Group Art Unit: 2815

Examiner: Diaz, Jose R.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is in response to the *Final Office Action* dated December 16, 2003 in the above-referenced patent application. Please enter and consider the following amendments and remarks in light of the attached *Request for Continued Examination* filed under 37 CFR §1.114 in the above-identified application.